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Date of Deposit: August 23, 2002

Our Case No. 8285/238-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Maropis et al.

Serial No. 09/417,266

Filing Date: October 12, 1999

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PROVIDING PRE-PAID LOCAL
TELEPHONE SERVICES

Examiner R. Foster

Group Art Unit No. 2645

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AUG 28 2002

Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2002, please enter the following amendment, and consider the following remarks:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 8, 14 and 16 to read as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A method for providing prepaid local telephone services to a subscriber having a telecommunications device connected to a subscriber line and in communication with a telephone network via the subscriber line, the method comprising:

receiving a telephone call from the subscriber;

identifying a prepaid subscriber account in a prepaid local telephone call database for the subscriber based on the telephone number of the subscriber;

receiving a value identification code associated with a prepaid local telephone service program;

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